

WCGS_News

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Third Quarter 2007

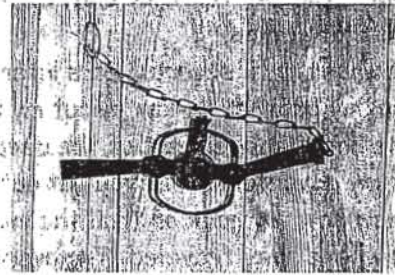
THE TOM CAT AND THE STEEL TRAP

One day while cleaning out the utility shed behind mom's house, my brother Raymond and I found an old rusty "Victor Steel Animal Trap." I know to use such a device today could be a controversial issue with many, especially with the growing number of many animal rights organizations.

I think traps that hold animals by their legs are out-lawed in most places, and rightly so. The fact remains, it simply was the way it used to be, right or wrong and a way of life in North Carolina and other places many years ago.

I am sure this is one of the original traps I owned when a boy over fifty years ago when growing up in Mackeys NC. It's very rusty and the springs have no strength and almost broke when I pressed down on them in the set position as you see in the photo.

A Daniel Boone or frontiersman I was not. Catching animals in traps was one of man's earliest means of getting food and clothing. If I had to make a living trapping, I would have starved to death, if I had to depend on the furs caught for clothes, I would have frozen to death. However, the good intentions and excitement was there. So with my trusted hip wadding boots and a few steel traps, out through the swamps I would go. It must have been something I wanted to do or desired very much, because saving the money to purchase hip boots and buy those traps, was not that easy in those days. The deep swamps around the mouth of Mackeys Creek behind our house and the swamp surrounding the island farm, known as the "Pollard Farm" on the Albemarle Sound, were always a mystery to me. The Norfolk Southern train trestle from Edenton came ashore on the south side of the sound on part of this farm. I'm sure this area at one time was a place of abode for the Indians and early settlers because there were lots of indigo plants growing on the high grounds. This was a plant used for dye by the Indians, later grown and exported by the Colonists. Many arrowheads have been found on the sound shore in this area and I have a rather large stone ax or tomahawk (without handle) I found there. The big tall Bald Cypress tree's and Swamp Gums (Water Tupelo) rose up out of the deep mucky swamp like California Redwood. The Water Tupelo was very large at the base and the trunks were slightly smaller as they went high into the sky. The tops grew together to form a canopy that would shut out the skyline. The old ones had a rather large oblong black seed, about the size and shape of the first joint on a little finger, about one inch long. The touch of your tongue to one of these berries gave you a very bitter acid taste. You can find these little black seeds along the sound shore where the swamps have overflow outlets, and the Mackeys Creek empties. The leaves on the trees were wide and long, dark green, rather oily or slick surface. As you walked and waded in the muck and mire, it would stir up dark compost. The odor that rose up through your nostrils was like nothing you ever smelled before. I can't say it was good or bad, just something different you never forget. Imagine all the foliage from those trees falling to the earth in the swamp once a year for hundreds of years. The Tupelo and Cypress were the predominant trees in this area at that time and had been growing there for many years. It would be the high spots in these woods with patches of tall reeds and fallen old dead trees where I would catch my game. Little did I know those critters



were smarter than I, after all they lived there, and my experience was limited. The way I baited the traps usually only yielded an occasional opossum or some other non-paying creature. When I caught my first muskrat I knew I was in the big time, their hide could bring a couple bucks if skinned properly. The muskrat has webbed hind feet, a long scaly rather flat tail, dark glossy brown fur and lives in burrows around water. I started my skinning process by nailing the rat's hind legs to the side of the smokehouse located in the back yard, with its head hanging down. The muskrat's meat is very tender, red, and ugly. When I had the hide about halfway down over the body, it pulled apart. The rat's body I am talking about! Yes, pulled apart, two sections, front and back. The odor was unbelievable and unbearable with all its entrails hanging out. There I suppose lies the reason of its name. "MUSKRAT". And to think that some people consider them delicacies! My little brown dog Tippy got the best half of the rat, and the other went back to the swamp, including the hide. I should have realized right then, I was getting in the wrong profession.

Late one afternoon when I was walking the Columbia Branch railroad tracks from the Pollard farm to home, I could hear ducks not far away in the area just beyond where the swamp water passed under the railroad trestle, and on into the Mackeys Creek. Now this I thought should be explored. The next day after school I put on my boots, went into the swamp and discovered there was an open area almost like a small pond. Around its edges were a few old rotten trees and stumps. On a return trip later with traps, some shelled corn, and an overnight setting, yielded a fine catch of mallards for mom's eating table. The ducks were wise though, for they only let that happen once. I have always wondered why that little clearing was over in that swamp?

It wasn't until several years later that I learned you catch what you bait for. I recall telling Jessie Griffin, my brother-in-law, about my method of trapping. Jessie was a professional mink trapper, and a good one. He had trapped most of the deep swamps around Washington and Tyrrell County. He sure got a big laugh out of my adventures. "If you put out scavenger bait you get scavengers." He told me he rarely baited at all but knew how to track or trail the mink and would conceal the traps in the water and cover with a few wet leaves where they traveled. The average mink hide brought about twenty dollars in those days.

The big adventure that shut down my operation was when I went to check one of my traps on a cold winter afternoon after school. Back in the deep swamp, not far from the creek and a short distance from an old Norfolk Southern Railroad bed every one called "the dam road". I suppose it was always that anxiety of not knowing what you would find in a trap that made it so exciting for a young lad. However, this day the catch wasn't very pleasant. My trap was set on a high spot next to a big tree, I looked with great anticipation, and there in the trap was the biggest domestic tomcat, with the longest fangs and claws, I had ever seen. The steel trap had one of his front feet caught just about the first joint. I knew if I tried to take my foot and press down on the springs to release the trap jaws, he would latch onto my boot with fangs and claws, which would go all the way through to my leg. He probably wouldn't turn loose until it lightning and thundered, or that's what the old folks use to say would happen if a snapping turtle bit you. I knew there would be no storms for along time, summer was a long time away. The slightest move toward the big tom, he would growl out loud showing his fangs, his hair would stand straight up on his back, this was not a good sign. Yet I knew I had to release the poor fellow from the jaws of the trap. I found a safe place to prop my 22-caliber rifle, took my long hunting knife out of the sheath, and cut a long branch with a fork. This would fit just over the tom's neck to allow me to press down on the trap springs to release the jaws, and pull the trap away. The big tom wasn't happy, but then neither was I; it had to be done. The operation went well until I realized the tom was free from the trap and I had him down with the forked limb around his neck; I had to take it OFF. Running through the deep swamp in three quarter boots is not easy and he still had one more leg than I even with one injured. I gently pulled back on the forked stick and the big tomcat settled down and looked up at me as if to say "thanks," slowly made his way on through the swamp. My heart settled down to a normal beat

and I simply felt like a real heel. How in the world a domestic house cat could smell that salt herring fish I had baited the trap with that far back in the swamp, I'll never know. What would I have done if it had been a real genuine wild bobcat? I knew they were in the local swamps because I had heard them late at night, and seen them crossing the road. And just the sound of a screaming wild tomcat is scary. I knew then that it was time for me to get out of the trapping business.

It never occurred to me that the Big Tom might be one of my Grandmothers, "Big Mama" we all called her, and she was a wonderful woman, surely her heart would be broken. She must have had a dozen cats, she and my Granddad lived just across the pasture from us. There was an old building out behind their large home, they called the washhouse. I was told it was once a detached kitchen for a large colonial home; a large cooking fireplace was located in one end. When Big Mama would go out to this washhouse to feed the cats, they would just seem to surround her.

Several weeks after I had caught the big tom, I was taking a short cut across the pasture as we usually did, to go to Mackeys. After passing her garden and proceeding through her back yard, who would greet me, but old Big Tom, just off the corner of the wash house. One front leg slightly shorter than the others, healthy and happy as could be. He simply paid me no mind. One thing I was sure of, he could not talk, I was glad for that, so he kept that secret, I did too. I never told anyone until years later until I was grown. In fact most of my "Victor Steel traps" were left in the swamp never to be used again. However

the lure of the swamps and Mackeys Creek always stayed with me as I continued to enjoy its beauty and many other adventures there. I continued to squirrel hunt with my 22 rifle. That of course would yield some good meals for the table. Our Mom was one of the finest cooks around, especially when it came to cooking stewed squirrel and dumplings. And too, in those days most boys thought it was rather "macho", for a great hunter to ride his bicycle around the countryside with a squirrel's tail hanging from the rear fender blowing in the breeze. (Contributor: Bob Spruill.)

Washington County, N.C. - Deed Abstracts: Vol: A-B-C -1799-1814

The Washington Co courthouse burned in 1862 & 1873 with only the deed books being saved. There's a wealth of information found in the deeds - the names of witnesses, neighbors, family members (including relationships), wives, females, names of deceased people, slaves, locations and other information of interest to family historians. Linda Haas Davenport has abstracted from these deeds not only names, but items of interest to family historians and is publishing the abstracts, along with an every name index, in a book. The book will be ready mid to late Jun 2007. If you would like to be notified when the book is ready contact Linda - (e-mail) lhaasdav@cox.net (that's an L not a 1) or P.O. Box 429, Broken Arrow, OK 74013.

Here's a few examples of what you will find in the book:

A-1-3: 30 Jan 1800: Benjamin Fessenden of Plymouth to Watson Freeman & Gideon Baty of Boston, Commonwealth of MA, merchants and Copartners. 1,000 pounds. Lot in the town of Plymouth, south side of Roanoke River, Capt John Guither's corner, Robert Armistead's line. [lot number not listed] Also the one half or moiety of a small rigged schooner vessel known as the Two Sisters jointly owned by the said Fessenden and Thomas Swinson. Also all the [list of items attached to or used on the boat, schedule of payments listed]

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
County Resident Hunting License for Washington County
Issued To Bobby Spruill Color White
P. O. Washington Address N.C.
Age 42 Hair Brown Eyes Blue Ht 5'10" Wt 175
By Bobby Spruill Agent Date 2/20/07
Signature of Licensee Bobby Spruill
PRICE \$1.10 SEASON 0
Expires July 31, 1950 1949-50 No. 92859

Witness: J. Slade. Proven in open court Mar term 1800 on oath of Benjamin Fessenden. Registered: 30 May 1800.

B-213: 12 Aug 1804: James Jones, William Fagan, Esq., Willis Draper, William Stubbs, Thomas Stubbs, Benjamin Jones, Nancy Jones to Friley Jones. In consideration of the natural love and affection which have and do bare towards Friley Jones orphan of Friley Jones, dec'd, and for the better maintenance of him. 1/2 of a Negroe man by the name of Henry, which formerly belonged to Margaret Jones, dec'd. Signed: Ja's Jones, W'm Fagan, W'm Stubbs, W. Draper, Tho's Stubbs, Ben Jones, Nancy Jones. Witnesses: Stevens Downing, G. W. Jones. Proven in open court Mar term 1804 on oath of George W. Jones. Registered: 25 Sep 1804.

C-130-131: [Division of Property. Plat at top of page] 23 Aug 1809: 60 acres. Formerly the property of James Rabey, dec'd. Near the path leading to Gideon Alexander's. William Mason's line. Nehemiah Norman's line. Thomas Norman's line. Divided in the following manner: Lot No. 1: 10 acres to Henry Rabey. Lot No. 2: 11 acres to Zillas Rabey. Lot No. 3. 12 acres to Nancy Rabey. Lot No. 4. 14 acres to Sarah Duckett. Lot No. 5. 16 acres to Adam Rabey. Signed: J. Blount, S.C. Chain Bearers: Joseph Spruill, Joseph Passamore. Proven in open court Sep 1809 term by oath of James Blount, Esq. Registered: 6 Dec 1809.

C-132-134: 9 Jan 1809: Ruben Carnal & Sarah F Armistead, both of the town of Plymouth, to Stark Armistead, Thomas & William Turner of Bertie Co, as trustees. Whereas a marriage is shortly intended to be had and solemnised between the said Reuben Carnal & Sarah F Armistead & the said Sarah is besides other property, possessed of interest in & entitled to a considerable personal estate in her own right consisting of the following Negroe Slaves: Philis & her five children Joe, Hardy, Sophy, Margaret & Cinthy. Silvia with her three children, Sufferer, Easter & Jim. Sue and her son Stephen with Hardy the husband of Phillis and father of her children, being 13 all together. That the right, title and estate, be safe & secure to her alone during her life time & the use of, profit & interest of the same be ... Remainder clipped for this example

C-422: [also numbered 394] 31 Jan 1814: These are to certify the bearer hereof, John Jethrew, has served as a Private in the 18th Regiment of United States Infantry for a period of 18 months & is honorably discharged. And to prevent imposition here follows a description of the aforesaid John Jethrew, he is aged 23 years, 5' 7 1/4" high, dark complexion, dark hair, dark eyes & by profession a Farmer. Ft. Johnson So. Carolina, January 31st, 1814. W'm Draton, Col'o 18th Reg't of Infentry. Registered: 2 Apr 1814. (Contributor: Linda Haas Davenport)

Plymouth Patents:

A notice in the November 29, 1889 issue of the Roanoke Beacon states "Mr. W.C. AYERS is up North looking after the interest of his garlic machine". As I read this I wondered what exactly was Mr. Ayers' patent all about?

A patent is a granting of property rights that excludes others from "making, using, or selling the invention in the United States" [1]. A person who files a patent need not necessarily be the inventor, but they are staking claim to the item in question. Having had a recent opportunity to search patents, I decided see if I could locate Mr. Ayers' patent. In December of 2006, Google unveiled their search interface for searching over 7 million U.S. patents granted by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. Google Patents is available online at <http://www.google.com/patents>. A simple search using the keywords "Ayers" and "Garlic" quickly uncovered the patent in question.

On July 16, 1889, William C. Ayers applied for his patent for an improvement to a Garlic Separator Machine. The patent was issued on January 22, 1889. The patent gives the details of how his invention works, along with drawing and diagrams. While the genealogical information to be directly extracted from a patent may be small, they can provide the researcher with a wonderful glimpse into an aspect of an ancestor's life.

Mr. Ayers signed his application, thus providing a sample of his handwriting. Questions that can be explored include researching what exactly is a Garlic Separator Machine? How might have William used one in his daily work? Is a knack for invention something that's been carried on throughout the generations? (Below) is an excerpt from his patent application.

Other Plymouth residents with patents included:

1. J.W. Sikes for "Cap or Withe for the Masts of Vessels"

Patent No. 11461 issued August 1, 1854

2. James M. Barrett for an "Improved Liniment"

(for medical compounds)

Patent No. 94379 issued August 31, 1869

3. Theodore A. Perry for a "Cotton Seed Crusher"

Patent No. 320682 issued June 23, 1885

4. Cecil C. Craft & Ambrose L. Owen for a

"Hedge Trimmer"

Patent No. 1837655 issued April 2, 1890

5. Americus D. Basinger and Robert Walker for a

Veneer Knife

Patent No. 1758423 issued May 13, 1890

6. Willie C. Ayers for a Railway Switch

Patent No. 603372 issued May 3, 1898

7. William F. Beasley for "Tire Construction"

Patent No. 1378313 issued May 17, 1921

8. Henry Boedker for "Thread-Tier"

Patent No. 1486070 issued March 4, 1924

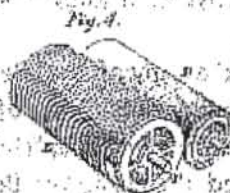
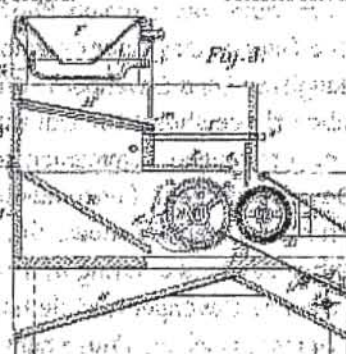
Google Patents is worth a look - who knows

who you'll find!

(Submitted by Taneya - Taneya@gmail.com)

http://www.taneya-kalonji.com/rbeacon/

W. D. AYERS.
GARLIC SEPARATOR.
No. 396,478.
Patented Jan. 23, 1889.



Member News

Welcome to new member Janet J. Tanksley who is researching: Ward, Hopkins, Cooper. Janet notes, in her application: "I ordered some past articles from your journal through Allen Co. Public Library and it appears you also cover early Tyrrell Co. Info." Her e-mail address is: jjtank@bellsouth.net

And: We always appreciate members who renew WCGS membership months in advance; members like Elwood L & Marie Long! Thanks, folks.

And: Jean Robinson (phatmom@snet.net) is researching: Ambrose, Jackson, Phelps, Woodley, Stafford, Hathaway and Ausbon.

More About Davenports:

To: Shirley B. Phelps Editor WCGS News P. O. Box 567 Plymouth, N.C. 27962-0567

Dear Shirley: I thought(f) you would like to know the results of my trip to Wigston, Leicestershire, England. The trip was most rewarding and I believe that I have found where our Richard Davenport of Albemarle came from and where members of his immediate family are buried.

Martin Davenport of Nice, France and I spent three days in the Wigston Record Office researching our family. I came across a Richard Davenport born 6 September 1640 in the parish of Kilby, a neighboring parish to Wigston. His father was John Davenport and his mother Elizabeth Davenport. He had a brother named John, born 23 December 1649 (some records say 1650). I found the graves of brother John and his wife Hannah in the Kilby Church yard. There were records for John's birth, marriages, children's births and his death. There was only one record for Richard and that was his birth. This leads me to believe that this Richard, son of John of Kilby, is a good candidate to be our Richard of Albemarle.

Included with this letter are pictures taken in Wigston and Kilby of the Davenport cousins attending the reunion. I have numbered each picture for your reference. Photo number one is the article that appeared in the local newspaper regarding our reunion. Photo number two is the group of cousins taken in the Wigston Church in front of the George Davenport memorial window. I am the one in the middle between Jim Davenport and his daughter Lara Davenport. Wives were not included in the picture, only Davenport blood relatives. Photo number three shows the Davenport crest in the "V" of the memorial window. Photo number four is the chalice from the silver communion service given to the church by the Davenport family in 1661 and engraved with the Davenport crest. Photo number five is the communion plate engraved with George Davenport's name. Photo number six shows the communion chalice sitting on the communion rail showing the hallmarks. Photo number seven is a listing of the Vicars of the Wigston Church including John Davenport from 1693 to 1706. George Davenport, while honored by the Wigston Church, was not a vicar there but was rector at Houghton Spring, Durham. Photo number eight is me behind the tombstone of John and Hanah Davenport in the churchyard at Kilby. (One we have used here.) Photo number nine is a close up of the tombstone inscription.

I have also included a copy of the "Pedigree of the Family of Davenport of Great Wigston, Oxford". Page two lists the parents and grandparents of Richard of Kilby. Next

I have included a story regarding "George Davenport- the Bad". I guess if we have a "George Davenport the Good", you also need a "George the Bad".

Finally, I have included a summary of my case for Richard of Kilby being one and the same as our Richard of Albemarle. To me, being able to assemble this case is based primarily on the use of DNA analysis using Y-chromosome testing. The strength of the case rests on DNA, otherwise I would have not had the slightest idea of where to begin looking for our Davenport family in England. You will note in the case summary that I have also included other Albemarle surnames that I found in the records in Wigston. I just can't believe that these names appeared there in such numbers if there was not a connection to eastern North Carolina.

To continue building the Albemarle Davenport family database we need to DNA test more male Davenports with both known and unknown lines back to Richard of 1640. As an example, on the line descending from Isaac, son of Richard, we only have test results for descendents of his son George. Their tests have a distinct marker that other Davenports descended from John, son of Richard, do not have. This allows us to be able to state that anyone tested that has this marker is descended from George, son of Isaac.

What we cannot say is what the test results from a descendent of another son of Isaac would reveal, nor can we at present separate descendents of Isaac from descendents of John other than those from George. While all the testing and building the paper proof will take time, I believe that in the future we will be able to test any probable Albemarle descendent and tell him from which son of Richard he descended. Recently we tested a Davenport from Anson County who though he was a descendent of Enoch Davenport, a descendent of Isaac. His test results revealed that he was not an Albemarle Davenport after all but a Tidewater Davenport from the Pitt County Davenports. Thus DNA testing can separate one line of Davenports from another and it can also determine lineage within a given line.

If you know any Albemarle Davenports that would like to be, or are willing to be DNA tested, please let me know. Several of my close cousins and I have put together several hundred dollars to help pay for testing of candidates that will expand the database or are retired and cannot afford the cost of the testing.

The DNA testing and the trip to England have been very rewarding to me and I hope the information learned will be a major addition to the genealogical knowledge of our Washington County forefathers. (D. Harold Davenport, 50 Ivy Chase Atlanta, GA 30342, May 3, 2007) [Editor's note: If you would like to have a copy of items referred to but not included, contact Mr. Davenport, or e-mail the editor. We appreciate the information from Mr. Davenport and will be glad to share]

More About Davenports:

Contributed by WCGS Member Helen Gautier:

PERQUIMANS COUNTY

Because I am a descendent of the Davenport, Sitterson and Swain families I am including information here which was found at the U. S. Gen. Web site. Many of the lists were unreadable:

Richard Davenport ---Perquimans County, Deed book A

Pg. 70 Richard Davenport, witness to agreement between

John Foster and Steven P---- in court Aug. 7, 1693 [John Foster was granted land in Chowan Co. {200 A} on Youpim River {sp} Sept. 15, 1694]

1702 poll tax list Perquimans CO., North Carolina

A list of taxable taken by James ---- in the year 1722

Richard Davenport and son John Davenport

1702 corn list

John Davenport 2

Background: In 1712, to raise provisions for the Tuscarora war, the government of North Carolina imposed a corn levy on every tillable in the colony---an account of what corn has been rec'd of the levy of one bushel per head on the tythable of tthe government and how disposed of, {undated, probably 1716} Unable to read other names

1713 Tax List

Richard Devenport {sp} and his son John Devenport [sp] Samuel Wiat {sp} note: probably father-in-law of John Swain,

1754 poll tax

Samuel Sitterson 1

Jno. Swain 2

James Sitterson 4

Solomson Wyat 1(?)

Mary Swain

Chowan Co., North Carolina

MARRIAGES



Davenport, Cornelius C. & Lydia Wynne, 1/27/1- 59 Mar. by T Knidson [sp] Knapp Wit: P. F. White, Wm. Skinner

Davenport, Ephriam Mary E. Speight, 2/24/1843 Wit: David Wright, T.T. Hathaway

Davenport, Richard & Elsey Chatman, 2/12/1839 Wit: Wm. Bush [sp], Jno Rush [sp]

Davenport, William & Florence Cheshies 2/14/1865

Mar. by: West Leary; Wit: Thomas Smith, Wm. Skinner

DAVENPORT, RICHARD

1 Davenport, Richard

Tyrrell Co. N.C. Book1, pg. 84, Dated 22 Novenber 1773., Will probated m Execators: John Davenport,son; John Davis, prob. son-in-law. Wit: J James Davenport, Joseph Davenport, Ann Gardner

2 John G.R. Davenport m. Zilpa Spruill, 4 Aug.1782

3 Ezra Davenport. m. Sarah Bateman. 27 Dec.1785

4. [prob] Adonijah Davenport

4 [prob] Harvey Swain/Spruill Davenport

4 [prob] A. Davenport

2 Jacob Davenport. m.

3. Benjamin Davenport

3. Sarah Davenport

2 Mary Mchabees

2 Elizabeth Davis

2 Anna Davis

2 Susannah Caswell

2 Rebekah Long

Source:

Tyrrell County NC Will, Book 1, page 84

Tyrrell Co. NC Marriage Bonds

Martin Co. NC, Land Transfers Transcribed by Helen Gautier 26 May 2007

ESTATE RECORDS, TYRRELL Co .. Records, - Tyrell Co

John G. R. Davenport Estate 1837

N.C.Archives .TYRRELL Co. Estates

C.R. 095. 508

MARTIN COUNTY LAND TRANSFERS -DAVENPORT [formally part of Tyrrell County]

1789 -1798 Book C

Moses Davenport to Wm Gilliam 111(?)

1850 -1857 Book H

Ezra Davenport to D. Bateman 519

1874-1875 Book W

Edmond Davis to A. Davenport 111 (can't read)

1874--1875 Book W

John G. R. Davenport to B. P, Peal 115

A. "to W.A. Rogerson 749

H.S. "to Morton & Everett 302

Adonijah" to E. W. Mizell 356

About Adonijah Davenport {Nijah, Niggy, Aninias, Elijah}

WASHINGTON COUNTY, N.C.

m. (1) Lois Ann/Louise

George Herbert
Richard Herbert

A.S. Johnston

m. (2) Elizabeth Skittelthorpe 1858

Virginia
Ellen, [Anna] Indiana

m. (3) Frances (may have been the mother of Anna)

Adonijah Davenport sold property in which his three sons above were also heirs, to Baily Stuart Lucas, 1st day of February, 1876. Records show that Asa J. S. Davenport apparently sold his share back to Baily Stuart Lucas on the same day.

Note: My Aunt, Sadie Davenport Grey, at the age of 93, revealed to me that her gr-father, Adonijah Davenport came from the Jamesville Area of Martin Co., NC. and that he was buried in the cemetery of the former St. Lukes Episcopal Church in an unmarked grave, along with one of his wives. The cemetery is located on Crossroad, north of Roper.

Richard Herbert Davenport b. Aug. 8, 1854. d. June 1940, age 85 years, 9 mon., 27 days.

m. (1) Susan Carolyn Davis, dau. Wm Mack and Mary Barber Davis, d. 1893, typhoid fever

Henry

James Milton

Lewis

William Hardy Davenport, m. Athlean Sitterson, dau. John Theodore Newberry & Sarah Sitterson d. 1943, he was blind.

Mattie d. age 12, typhoid fever

m. (2) Ella Spruill

Raymond

Mary

John

Henderson (twin)

Sadie (twin)

Robert

Margret

m. (3) Jenny Gates/Yates

Source: Terrell Co., U.S. Gen. Web

Martin Co. N.C. Registrar of deeds

Washington Co. Marriage Records, WCGS, pg. 20,

Washington Co. Registrar of Deeds, (dau. of Sadie Davenport Grey)

Washington County Cemeteries, Lees Mill Township WCGS

Vernon Everett

Sadie Davenport Grey

Submitted by Helen Davenport Gautier - May 24, 2007

BATTS GRAVE

"Batts Grave", now completely eroded, is properly shown at the mouth of the Yeopim River, as drawn by Edward Mosely on a map of the Albemarle Region, quoted from the Washington County Genealogical Society, JOURNAL, December 1987.

Batts Grave is mentioned in the will of John Davenport who inherited or "bought" it from his father, John Davenport, who was to "pay" his son (probably to continue to live there) for one ear of corn a year.

The same John Davenport owned land at the mouth of Yeopim River which joined the land of Stephen Swain.

"Batts Grave" is the island mentioned in one of Inglis Fletcher's books using this island as the site on which a young lady, without known family, used as her 'secure hideout."

The island can be seen on the map by Ed. Moseley dated 1738. The map is titled "Ancient Albemarle Colony."

Inglis Fletcher authored several historical novels of colonial times of North Carolina in the Albemarle region. She was the gr.gr.gr.gr.gr granddaughter of Dr. Godfrey Spruill of Tyrrell County and was descended from the Caswells, Chapmans, Davenports and others of this area.

Sources: Washington County Genealogical Society Journal, Dec. 1987, pg. 89-90, contributed by Edwin Norman.

Will of John Davenport, Jr.

'Men of Albemarle', Inglis Fletcher

Edward Moseley map of Ancient Albemarle Area, c.1738

Contributed by Helen Davenport Gautier

Vernon Everett

More About:

Concord Primitive Baptist Church Preservation Society, Inc.

This year's Homecoming is set for Saturday, 15th September 2007 starting at the old meeting house at 11 a.m. The Honorable Tim Spear, NC House of Representatives (Washington Co.) will be our speaker. We are delighted Rep. Spear has agreed to be with us and to talk to the "Concord Crowd." At the conclusion of the program, we will adjourn for dinner at Mount Tabor OFWB Church's Fellowship Hall just down the road. We hope you and your family will be with us for Homecoming 2007. Drinks & ice will be provided; bring covered dish/es to share.

Meanwhile: Are you a dues-paying member of CPBCPS, Inc? Remember - all dues, minute-book sales and gifts are used solely for the upkeep and maintenance of Washington County's only standing Primitive Baptist meeting house. Mail your dues for 2007 & gifts to Maude Grace Davenport, 67 Mackeys Rd, Roper NC 27970. Dues for 1 = \$15; for family \$18. We need your support! - Shirleyan Phelps, Clerk; 252-793-5236

Query: Re Wynn

David L. Hughes, 404 State St., Williamston NC 27892 (Dhughes67@earthlink.net / 252-792-3359, wants to get in touch with others researching Wynn, Winn, Wynne from Washington Co., NC. (28 May 2007)

More About Washington County Cemetery Records

From a recent e-mail to WCGS: "Hello, I am interested in purchasing all 4 volumes of the Washington County, NC Cemeteries. . . . I have seen excerpts from the Plymouth volume and I can't wait to get my own copies. I await your reply! Thanks! Nathan Knight NEETHOVEN@aol.com. "[Thanks, Nathan, for the plug!]

Again, work is underway (albeit slowly) on Volume V - which is to include deaths since the original surveys were completed, corrections, omissions, updates. Your input is welcomed. You can submit info to be considered for that volume by e-mail or on CD. Or, you can submit hard-copy suitable for scanning.

More About Lucretia Phelps

In April, we had a phone query about Lucretia Phelps: What happened to her? Where was she sent? Lucretia was said to be romantically involved with Capt. Flusser (see: "The Sad Case of Amanda Phelps -

Innocent Victim of War.") We shared copies from early Civil War Journals and asked Vernon Everett for any additional information. This is Vernon's response:

Ed Norman worked on the Phelps thing for a while but never came up with much.

Re 1850 Census # 609 - John F. Phelps was surveyor, lazy and did sloppy work a researcher told me. His daughter Henrietta married Thomas Beckwith, a lawyer, 4/20/1857.

Re 1840 Census, Page 14 - Living in the Pearidge area with wife, 2 daughters, 7 houses from Amariah Biggs, which would be in the area of the William Biggs Cemetery. Jesse Hassell was next door who was the father of Solomon Hassell. Cemetery to the east.

Re 1830 Census - Page 4 - John Phelps living next to Hardy Norman with 2 sons, one of which is the correct age to be John F. Phelps.

Re 1840 Census Page 12 - Lucretia Snell is head of household. There were lots of John Snells but I would put my money on John Snell Sr., of the 1830 census as her husband.

I could not find any of the Phelps or Beckwith family in the 1870 census (poor copy) or the 1880. Next stop courthouse records and I don't do that any more. John & Amanda were married ca. 1835. No help there except deed & court records.

(We gave up Internet several years ago. Excuse poor writing. Vernon) Vernon Everett - 5/16/2007

The Sad Case of Amanda Phelps - Innocent Victim of War

(WCGS - Spring 1993 - Civil War Fragments)

This burial record was extracted from the Grace Episcopal Church (Plymouth NC) Register, page 566. The burial was recorded a considerable time, perhaps years, after the death. Note that the year stated is incorrect. For "1863", read "1862."

Burial No. 77. Amanda Phelps. No age given.

Born: Washington county. Residence: Plymouth

Buried: 12 December 1863. Died: 10 December 1863

Cause: Gunshot in breast (Accidental) during the first attack on Plymouth by Southern troops.

Burial: Church Yard. Remains since removed to Methodist graveyard.

Clergy: Capt. Flusser, U.S. Navy read the burial service there being no Minister in Plymouth.

Washington County Census 1860. Family No. 692

John F. Phelps age 48 Blacksmith

Amanda Phelps age 41

Lucretia age 18

John W. age 16 Blacksmith

Lucretia Snell age 64

George W. Snell age 27 Blacksmith

John, with \$1500 Real and \$1500 Personal property, and a three-man shop, was apparently a successful tradesman. The Slave Census shows John's ownership of two slaves, ages 12 and 17, accounting for a large portion of the \$1500 Personal Property valuation.

As Census 1850 shows Lucretia Snell and George Snell living together in Skinnersville District, and 1860 shows the Phelps' with an apparent daughter, Lucretia, may we assume that Amanda Phelps was daughter of Lucretia Snell? EAN

1850 Census - 609

Jno. F. Phelps 38 m surveyor

1,500"

Amanda M. 32 f

Henrietta J. 13 f
 Lucretia H. 11 f
 Jno. W. 10 m
 Nathan Norman 23 m
 520
 Geo. W. Snell 20 m farmer 700
 Lucretia 56 f

1880

George W Snell AGE 49 Boarder in Household of
 Andrew Davenport age 34
 Sarah E (wife) age 30 - Skinnersville Township

Searching Afro-American Ancestors?

The 1870 census is the first to name all Afro-Americans. To research families thought to have been slaves, look at all their neighbors, regardless of race, for other family members and possible former owners. For information prior to 1865, study records of slave owners; census schedules, slave and free; wills; estate records; deeds; bills of sale; and any family papers which may be found in manuscript collections.

(Source unknown.)

Miscellaneous Info

Old courthouse records of the 1700s sometimes referred to "keeping an ordinary." An "ordinary" was an inn, tavern or saloon which served a fixed-price meal. The term might also apply to the meal itself. Counties or towns regulated the price "ordinaries" could charge for food and/or drink. (Source unknown.)

Genealogical Terms:

Lineal - ascending or descending in a direct line; Collateral - descended from same ancestor but not in direct line of descent; Allied families are families usually related through marriage; An Ancestry begins with a single individual and traces back in time to include the male and female line of that ancestor and traces forward in time to include all descendants to the present.

YANKEE!

To a foreigner, a Yankee is an American. To a Southerner in the US, a Yankee is a Northerner. To a Northerner, a Yankee lives in New England. To a New Englander, a Yankee is someone from Vermont. To a Vermonter, a Yankee is someone who still uses an outhouse.

Genealogy Calories:¹

The hourly calorie consumption of genealogical activities:

Beating around the bush	75	Dragging your heels	100
Jumping to conclusions	100	Bending over backwards	75
Climbing the walls	150	Running around in circles	350
Passing the buck	25		

¹Reprinted from Fayette, GA Hist. Society

Genealogy

No book is entirely perfect
 for errors will creep in;
 Sometimes wrong information
 Is sent by someone's nearest kin.
 And even printers make mistakes
 for which they tear their hair.
 Sometimes two people disagree
 On whom or when, or where?
 It might have been the person
 Who wrote the history;
 It might have been the typist,
 Or the blame can fall on me.
 So if you're dead before you're born,
 Or married when you're three,
 Or I've omitted anyone,
 Who sent themselves to me,
 Or your last name is not your own,
 Your picture not too good,
 I ask you - please forgive me,
 I did the best I could.

(Author Unknown)

Sources to check:

Names of Confederate Soldiers & Sailors Listed on Federal Monument at Point Lookout, Maryland, from NC (973.7 Point Lookout Prison Camp for Confederates)

973.7 North Carolina 1890 Civil War Veterans Census Sandra L. Almasy

"Tombstones and Epitaphs of Northeastern North Carolina - Consisting of Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Washington Counties." Compiled by Wilma Cartwright Spence (Gateway Press, Inc. Baltimore 1973)

"Only God and genealogists can make a tree."

"Would your ancestors have chosen you?"

"Puzzlement often is the know on the door of insight."

Washington County Genealogical Society (WCGS)

Box 567 - Plymouth NC 27962-0567

Virginia C. Haire - President

Brian Keith Phelps - Treasurer (bluegrassboy@hotmail.com)

Shirleyan Beacham Phelps - Editor WCGS News - (shirleyan32@earthlink.net)

Meetings: Third Sunday Jan, April, July and October - @ 2:30 p.m.

Finding the Wife's Maiden Name:

In the lower left-hand corner of most deeds, you will find signatures of two to four witnesses. The first one is always from the husband's side. The next one is always from the wife's side. That is to protect her one-third dower right under the law. Nothing you will ever use will give greater clues to maiden names than witnesses to old deeds. In addition, in the 1800s and before, it was traditional when the daughter got married, as part of her dowry for the father to either cover the loan or carry the note for his son-in-law. If you know the husband's name but not the wife's maiden name, find out to whom they were making their mortgage payment. About 70% of the time, it will be her father. (Source: Giles Co., T "Historical Society Bulletin" July 1993.)

Editor's Note:

This issue of WCGS News, as you have discovered by now, contains a lot of "stuff" - miscellaneous items clipped and saved over time. Some of the info may work for you - if it doesn't, let us know. Share your research tips or great finds with others who will eventually, in years to come, read our publications. This publication is for you, so please share. We need family data, group sheets, ancestry or descendency charts. Again, you can send them by e-mail which helps eliminate errors in transcribing. We truly appreciate those who are regular contributors to WCGS - names found throughout this issue. And, I am forever indebted to Bob Spruill who sounded the first alert way back when and who continues to provide updates on the US Navy's attempt to take thousands of acres of prime farmland right next to Pocosin Lakes NWLR - I also appreciate those who forward queries to us from time-to-time - the *Roanoke Beacon*, the Washington County Historic Society and folks at the Washington County Manager's office.

WCGS - July 2007 Meeting

A last-minute decision was made to cancel our April 15th meeting as most of us in Washington County awoke to a severe Nor'easter blowing through. Apologies to anyone who did not get the information in a timely manner. Mr. Paul Lilley (Associate Professor Emeritus, NC State, who contributed to *Washington County, NC: a Tapestry*, will be the speaker at the summer meeting, 15th July 2007 at 2:30 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend and to bring a guest. Please note: meetings are now held on NC 32 South, and not at the First OFWB Church on US 64 West. For more info contact one of the officers or email: bluegrassboy@hotmail.com. There is no "land" phone at the Lodge but you can reach Harrison/Shirleyan at 252-902-8162 for any last minute changes due to weather, etc.

God Bless America - Let There Be Peace on Earth & Let it Begin with Me!!!